NEW YORK TIMES FEB 7 1952

Approved For Release 2003/12/02 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000300060015-3

STAT

MEDICAL OFFICIAL RESIGNS V. A. POST

Boone's Chief Aide Critical of Program—Admiral Denies Work Is Retrogressing

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (UP)—A new policy dispute in the Veterans Administration has brought the angry resignation of Dr. E. H. Cushing as assistant chief medical director.

Dr. Cushing, in a brief letter of resignation, did not give his reasons for quitting, but it was said he made them clear in a private conference with Vice Ad. miral Joel T. Boone, Veterans Administration medical chief. Their argument centered on an apparent slowing down of the Veterans Agency's program of instruction for internes and resident physicians in veterans' hospitals. Dr. Cushing's letter said that he and Admiral Boone had "irreconcilable differences" on V. A. medical problems.

Michael Straight, national chairman of the American Veterans Committee, renewed his demand that President Truman dismiss Carl R. Gray, Jr., Veterans Administrator.

Mr. Straight's telegram, his third to Mr. Truman urging Mr. Gray's ouster, said that Dr. Cushing's decision to quit was "further proof" of a "deterioration of V. A. medical services."

Dr. Cushing's sudden resignation was the second explosion in the agency medical hierarchy in a little more than a year. In January, 1951, Dr. Paul B. Magnuson was dismissed as medical head.

Magnuson Supported

Dr. Magnuson charged that the Veteran Agency's medical program was handcuffed by "bureaucrats." He also said that V. A. hospitals should be left in control of medical men.

A Senate subcommittee investigated Dr. Magnuson's discharge and sharply criticized Mr. Gray for fostering "an administrative monstrosity" that threatened "complete disintegration" of the V. A.'s $650,000,000-a-year medical program. The Senate group gave its full support to Dr. Magnuson's complaints.

Admiral Boone expressed surprise at Dr. Cushing's resignation. In a reply to Dr. Cushing's letter, the medical head said he "regrets that you no longer see fit to continue as a member of the team. . . ."

Admiral Boone added that he was especially surprised at Dr. Cushing's action because only last September the doctor had accepted a four-year reappointment as head of the VA's medicaresearch and education programs.

The medical chief Boone named to replace Dr. Cushing, Dr. Lyon has directed the agency's radioisotope research program.

THE NEW YORK TIMES,

RESIGNS FROM V. A.

Associated Press

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